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COUNTRY Austria

DATE:

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SUBJECT Soviet Purchasing Unit in Vienna

INFO.

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From April to September 1946, the Soviet purchasing unit at Paniglgasse 20, Vienna IV paid several million schillings weekly for goods purchased from Austrian firms. Every ten or twelve days, 1,000,000 schillings were paid to the Palmers Strümpfe firm for socks, underwear, stockings, and other dry goods; almost the same amount was paid to the Julius Meinel A.G. for candy; 100,000 schillings were disbursed every two weeks to the Sigmund Landvay and M. Maurer firms for textiles, buttons, and ribbons. However, most of the goods acquired by the purchasing unit were obtained from black market sources. Knoll and Vysozkaya, members of the unit, once traveled with a smuggler to Linz, whence they brought back gold wristwatches worth several million schillings.

Interpreters in the office are paid 600 schillings a month, and every two weeks they receive a twenty-pound package containing meat, flour, fat, and tobacco; these are all Austrian products.

3. Univermag, located in Karlsplatz, Vienna IV, is a Soviet military goods store supplied by the Soviet purchasing unit. From January to March 1947, Univermag sold goods in the amount of 7,000,000 schillings, which were deposited in the Soviet Military Bank in Starhembergasse, Vienna IV.

4. The following are attached to the Soviet purchasing unit in Vienna:

Rakhlenko, Captain

Chief of the unit.

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Knoll, Captain

Deputy to Rakhlenko.

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Hrasch, Maria

Rakhlenko's secretary and interpreter.
Lives in Burggasse, Vienna VII. Prob-
ably of Ukrainian origin.

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Vysozkaya, Marushka

Works in same office with Maria Hrasch,
whose niece she is

5. In addition to the persons listed above, six or seven Soviet of-
ficers, two Soviet civilian bookkeepers; three interpreters, and
several workmen, all unidentified, work in Rakhlenko's office.

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